

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KAMPAL 02232 101305Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PC-04 SY-10 M-03 A-01 SS-15

NSC-10 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01

PA-03 EB-11 USIA-12 RSR-01 /131 W

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P R 101045Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2828

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 2232

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC PFOR UG US

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF PCV'S IN UGANDA

REF: STATE 133471

1. SUGGEST BEST SOURCE FOR FULL OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT IS EAA HQ NAIROBI. WE HAVE ALREADY REPORTED ALL THAT WE PICKED UP BEARING ON THIS INCIDENT. EAA OFFICIALS HERE, WHILE REASONABLY COOPERATIVE, HAVE GENERALLY TAKEN ATTITUDE THAT ANYTHING GOU ORDERED THEM TO DO WAS TO BE OBEYED WITHOUT QUESTION, AS THEY HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS. IT IS TRUE THAT BOTH EAA REGIONAL MANAGER AND EAA AIRPORT MANAGER GOT THE UGANDAN MILITARY ON SCENE AT ENTEBBE SOMEWHAT ANGRY AT THEM (WHICH IS DANGEROUS) BY PRESSING FOR CLEARANCE, BUT THEY DID NOT PRESS CASE AS VIGOROUSLY AS REPRESENTATIVES OF AN AIRLINE OTHER THAN EAA MIGHT HAVE DONE, FOR UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS. THEY HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY MADE A REPORT TO EAA HQ.

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PAGE 02 KAMPAL 02232 101305Z

2. I WOULD GUESS THAT PILOT MITCHELL HAS ALSO MADE A REPORT.

WOULD BE WORTHWHILE DE-BRIEFING HIM IF HE AVAILABLE. I HAVE ALREADY REPORTED WHAT HE TOLD ME (KAMPALA 2193). HE WAS MOST COOPERATIVE. HIS SUMMING-UP TO ME, NOT FOR QUOTATION OR ATTRIBUTION, IS THAT INCIDENT RESULTED FROM AMIN'S "PARANOIAM"

3. PILOT WHO FLEW GROUP FROM GATWICK TO ENTEBBE, AND ALSO LATER ON FROM ENTEBBE TO KINSHASA (DIDN'T GET HIS NAME), ALSO BRITISH LIKE MITCHELL, WOULD BE WORTH DE-BRIEFING. HE TOLD ME JULY 9 PRIOR TAKE-OFF FROM ENTEBBE FOR KINSHASA, THAT ON JULY 7, AFTER DELIVERING GROUP TO ENTEBBE AND TURNING PLANE OVER TO MITCHELL, HE HAD TAKEN SABENA FLIGHT TO NAIROBI. ENROUTE THE CAPTAIN OF THAT AIRCRAFT CALLED HIM TO FLIGHT DECK AND INFORMED HIM THAT HE HAD OVERHEARD CALL-BACK BY ENTEBBE TOWER OF EAA CHARTER PLANE HEADED FOR BUJUMBURA. WHEN THE EAA PILOT REACHED NAIROBI HE PHONED OUR EMBASSY TO ADVISE THEM OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED. HE REMARKED THAT WHOEVER ANSWERED THE PHONE AT EMBASSY NAIROBI (PRESUMABLY THE MSG ON DUTY) OUGHT TO BE TOLD TO BE MORE DIPLOMATIC. WHOEVER ANSWERED THE PHONE, THE PILOT SAID, EXPLODED AS FOLLOWS WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS: "THAT BUGGER (AMIN) WILL GET HIS ONE OF THESE DAYS."

KEELEY

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NNN

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